(d) whether even after increasing FDI limit, the voting right percentage will be retained at the present level of 20 per cent?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) and (b)The Government has received applications for starting Direct-to-Home broadcasting services.

(c) There is no proposal under consideration to increase FDI investment limit or to liberalise any other condition.

(d) Does not arise.

Legislation for coverage of national and international sports meets

2730. SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI:
SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Prasar Bharati has decided to request Government to bring in a legislation enabling Doordarshan to get signals of all national and international sports meets, especially in sports;

(b) if so, whether such legislation exists in a number of countries including Australia and the UK;

(c) whether India is being left out in important events like World Cup Football matches etc;

(d) if so, whether Government have considered the request; and

(e) if so, the steps being considered in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) Prasar Bharati has requested Government's intervention to bind the right holders of events of national and international importance to provide terrestrial television rights in India to DD, as a public service broadcaster.

(b) Some countries have enacted legislations which provide for live telecast of specific events of general public importance. The provisions vary but the underlying objective is to ensure that interest of larger section

of viewers of the country is protected and that the broadcast rights are not cornered on an exclusive basis.

(c) Doordarshan could not telecast live, the World Cup Football (FIFA) 2002.

(d) and (e) The Communication Convergence Bill 2001 introduced in Lok Sabha on 31.8.2001 has a provision that national or international events of general public interest, notified by Government in advance, shall have to be carried on the network of public service broadcaster as well. The Communication Commission shall, however, determine well in advance of such events, the principles and terms for access to the network of public service broadcaster.

News-items on Indian Media

2731. SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD:
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item captioned, "Are we reporting or settling an old colonial account "which appeared in the "Pioneer" dated the 5th July, 2002;

(b) if so, whether in the report, French journalist's open letter against foreign media's anti-India bias has been examined by Government;

(c) if so, the reaction of Government on this issue; and

(d) the steps being taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) Yes, Sir;

(b) to (d) The press in India not only enjoys the freedom guaranteed under Article 19 of the Constitution of India but it is also very diverse with a whole range of differing opinions expressed by various journalists being a significant feature of our vibrant and democratic polity.

On its part, the Government does not endeavour to proactively interact with the media in order to share information and with the objective of projecting a positive and well informed image of the country and also to counter disinformation and propaganda by forces inimical to the country, as well as to correct misperceptions.